



Freshwater Fish of Victoria - Pigmy Perches

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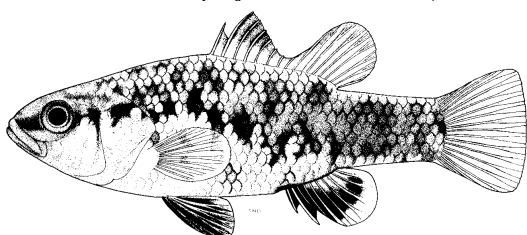
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Family:

Kuhliidae

General characteristics: A medium-sized mouth with bands of fine teeth. The lateral line is clearly divided into two parts. The single dorsal fin is deeply notched between the spiny and soft sections)



Common Name:

Southern Pigmy Perch

Other Name/s:

Nil

Scientific Name:

Nannoperca australis

Gunther, 1861

Native

Status:

Description

Large head, with rounded snout. Moderate sized eye high on the side of the head. Oblique mouth, gape extends back past the rear of the eye. Body covered with scales, snout and lower jaw bare. Back colouration is dark golden-brown to greenish, lighter lower body. Black or brown blotches occur along the sides. A large, slightly concave to rounded tail. Dark brown-black spots form two indistinct horizontal bands along the body, one above, one below the lateral line, the lower band continuing through the eye.

Distribution

Widespread throughout Victoria, being more abundant south of the Great Dividing Range. Reasonably common and abundant in some areas.

Habitat

Frequents weedy slow-flowing or still waters such as lakes, dams, billabongs and irrigation channels, or the slow-flowing areas of stream edges where aquatic vegetation is present in small creeks and backwaters of larger rivers.

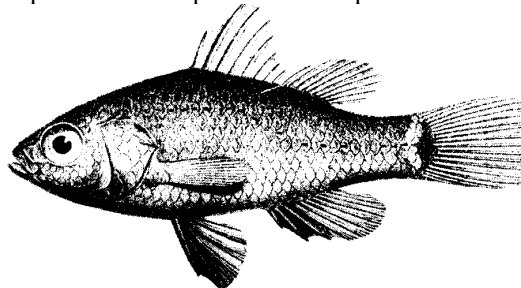
Brief Biology

Known to attain more than 8 cm, it seldom exceeds 6.5 cm. Breeding season is September-October when water temperatures reach 16 to 21°C. Females can lay between 500 and 4,000 eggs, which are scattered randomly over the bottom, adhering to rocks and vegetation. Observation suggest that females may spawn several times during a

season. Males defend territory in which eggs are laid. Carnivorous, with major dietary items being insect larvae and small crustaceans.

Other Notes

Eaten by large predatory native and introduced species. It has been suggested that distribution may have been affected by predation and/or competition with introduced fish species. Good species for mosquito control.



Common Name:

Yarra Pigmy Perch

Other Name/s:

Nil

Scientific Name:

Edelia obscura

(Klunzinger, 1872)

Status:

Native, Potentially Threatened

Yarra Pigmy Perch is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. Under this legislation, the taking, possession or trading of Yarra Pigmy Perch is prohibited without a permit, license of Governor-in-Council Order issued under the Act. Departmental research and management activities have been authorised by a Governor-in-Council Order.

Description

Large head with pointed snout. Moderate sized eye positioned high on the side of the head. Small oblique mouth. Body covered in scales. Upper body colouration is olive-green or greyish, greenish-brown along the sides, with a yellowish-white belly. Scale margins are dark. Dark spots occur on the body and at the base of the tail. Fins are clear, fawn to orange, often with dark borders. Several dark, rearward pointing chevron-type markings on the front half of the body.

Distribution

Southern Victoria from Dandenong Creek west to the Victorian - South Australian border.



Habitat

Prefers slow-flowing or still waters with abundant aquatic vegetation, in lakes and small creeks. It has been collected from brackish waters.

Brief Biology

Maximum size known to be 7.5 cm. Little is known of its biology. Spawning occurs during September-October. Carnivorous, feeding on small invertebrates.

Other Notes

Commonly found with *Nannoperca australis*. Good species for mosquito control. Distribution may have been affected by predation/competition from introduced species.



Common Name:

Other Name/s:

Scientific Name:

Status:

Variegated Pigmy Perch
Ewens pigmy perch
Nannoperca variegata
Kuitert and Allen, 1986
Native, Endangered

Variegated Pigmy Perch is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. Under this legislation, the taking, possession or trading of Variegated Pigmy Perch is prohibited without a permit, license of Governor-in-Council Order issued under the Act. Departmental research and management activities have been authorised by a Governor-in-Council Order.

Description

As for *Nannoperca australis*, except there are no scales behind the eyes on the nape of the head. Colour is reddish-orange, golden mid-lateral band. Rows of brown blotches along the sides. A broad band in front of the eye to the snout.

Distribution

Restricted to several fresh water tributaries of the Glenelg River in south-western Victoria.

Habitat

Small shallow creeks, fast flowing with abundant aquatic vegetation. Seems to have a preference for well-oxygenated streams.

Brief Biology

As for *Nannoperca australis*. Maximum size 7 cm, little is yet known of its biology.

Other Notes

Little information is available on its distribution, but it may have been affected by predation/competition from exotic species and introduction of Golden Perch into the Glenelg River basin.

Freshwater Fish of Victoria is a series of brief information material on the native and introduced freshwater fish of Victoria's inland waters. Further, detailed reading on Pigmy Perches is contained in:

Freshwater Fishes of South-Eastern Australia
R M McDowall (Ed.)

A Guide to the Freshwater Fish of Victoria
Phillip Cadwallader & Gary Backhouse,
Department of Conservation and Environment

Australian Freshwater Fishes
John R. Merrick & Gunther E. Schmida

Biological Information for Management of Native Freshwater Fish in Victoria
J D Koehn, W G O'Connor

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